vehicles. Enforcement and compliance of this direction is the responsibility of the State authorities of NCR and NCT of Delhi.

Delay in Delhi-Gurgaon Expressway

362. SHRI DEVDAS APTE: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the completion of Delhi-Gurgaon Expressway project has failed once again in time schedule;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) by when this project is likely to be completed;

(d) how much budgetary cost has been incurred due to delay in completion;

(e) whether Government would put blame on the private parties engaged in construction work and would also consider to share the burden of delayed cost; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) The anticipated date of completion of Delhi-Gurgaon Expressway has been revised now from June, 2007 to September, 2007. The major part of the project except the elevated stretch between Rao Tula Ram (RTR) Chowk to Palam, is likely to be completed by April, 2007.

(d) There is no budgetary cost incurred due to delay in completion.

(e) and (f) Do not arise.

Delay in golden quadrilateral projects

363. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many projects like Golden Quadrilateral highway projects run through National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) were delayed and running very late;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of corrective steps taken or proposed to be taken by his Ministry for improving the situation;

(d) whether Government are considering to run highway projects through involving public private partnership on the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) There has been some delays in the completion of a few contracts pertaining to Golden Quadrilateral, due to problem associated with acquisition of land, shifting of utilities, difficulty in environment and forest clearances, poor performance of some contractors and termination of some contracts etc.

(c) The steps taken to expedite the projects is at Statement (*See* below).

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. It has been decided to award National Highways Development Project contracts on BOT basis (either based on Toll or Annuity) as far as possible.

Statement

The following steps have been taken to ensure early completion of the project:—

(a) The Contracts are regularly monitored at various levels such as by Supervision Consultants/Project Directors, Senior Officers of National Highways Authority of India. Progress reviews are also held at the level of Chairman, National Highways Authority of India, Secretary, Department of Road Transport and Highways and the Minister, Shipping, Road Transport and Highways.

(b) State Governments have appointed senior officers as nodal officers for resolving problems associated with implementation of the National Highways Development Project such as land acquisition, removal of utilities, forest/pollution/environment clearances etc. These nodal officers hold periodic meetings to review the projects and take action to resolve the problems.

(c) A Committee of Secretaries has been constituted under Cabinet Secretary to address inter-ministerial and Centre-State issues such as land acquisition, utility shifting, environment approvals, clearance of Road Over Bridges etc.

(d) The procedure of issue of Land Acquisition notifications has now been simplified.

(e) To expedite the construction of Road Over Bridges, an officer of the Railways has been posted to National Highways Authority of India to coordinate with Ministry of Railways. Memorandum of Understanding has been signed with M/s. IRCON for construction of some of the Road Over Bridges.

(f) Action has been taken against non-performing contractors and they are not allowed to bid for future projects unless they improve the performance in existing contracts.

(g) Steps have been taken to improve cash flow problems of contractors by granting interest bearing discretionary advance at the request of contractor, release of retention money against bank guarantee of equal amount, deferment of recovery of advances (on interest basis) and relaxation in minimum Interim Payment Certificate (IPC) amount.

Development of shipping industry

364. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of programmes made by Government for development and modernization of ports, shipping, shipyards, and inland navigation since the last two years by harnessing the long coastline of our country;

(b) whether Government have decided for public-private partnership projects in the port sector; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps proposed for the development of shipping industry in view of the increasing growth rate of exports?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) The Department of Shipping has formulated the National Maritime Development Programme (NMDP) with the objective of upgrading and modernizing India's maritime infrastructure, keeping in